



The Columbia River Peace Corps Association Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 11 "Bringing the World back Home" November, 2005

In This Issue:

- President's Corner
- CARE
- 45th PC Anniversary
- Positions available
- NPCA relations update

Events Calendar

November 2005

Thursday, 11/10, 6:30 pm. CRPCA *Restaurant Gathering, Ya Hala Lebanese Cuisine, 8005 SE Stark St* in Portland. RSVP to [Jenny Tsai](mailto:Jenny.Tsai@crpca.org), 503-806-6275. Depending on interest, the group may go to a movie afterwards (at Laurelhurst, Hollywood, or Lloyd cinemas).

Monday, 11/28, 6:30 pm. *Soirée* at Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, [915 SE Hawthorne Blvd](http://www.luckylabrador.com) in Portland. Look for the CRPCA sign in or near the front room.

December 2005

Sunday, 12/11, 5:00 pm. CRPCA *Potluck* at the home of Rosemary Furfey, [7022 SW 33rd Ave](http://www.rosemaryfurfey.com) in Portland, 503-245-0819.

No Soirée in December; replaced by post-holiday party on January 7.

President's Corner

Smells and sounds of fall are upon us with damp foggy Willamette Valley mornings. Enjoy this favored part of the year. Rake some leaves; take a hike. Ahhhh

Below is a synopsis of our last business meeting. Our organization is in good health with activities and increased membership. We had a wonderful presentation and good attendance at our potluck. *Next potluck: December 11.* We are currently collaborating on an event for March 5th that will be a general Open House sponsored by the NPCA and Peace Corps as part of our 45th Anniversary. (see *page 2*) It should be an event that you will all be interested in attending. If anyone wants to help with this project, contact me at rireland88@yahoo.com.

October 9, 2005 CRPCA Business Meeting

Attending: Rich Ireland, Bill Stein, Martin Kaplan, Anne Kimberly, Laura Montez, Cate Wilcox, Dane Pikkola
Hosts: Jenny and Bill Stein

By-law revisions: After much discussion, all agreed on the following changes and updates to the by-laws:

- Separate the Treasurer and Secretary position. (since this is how we've been operating for a few years)
- Delete the VP position.
- Add a Service Coordinator position.
- Add a Special Events Coordinator position.

Bill will write up the proposed revisions and clean-ups and circulate them to all committee members for approval.

Military Statute: After much discussion (all in agreement, mind you!), the committee decided to write the OR and SW WA representatives an official letter asking their support of Representative John Kline's Bill, HR 3708, which revokes the inclusion of Peace Corps service as an option for those fulfilling their military

service. Rich will write and send the letter on the Board's behalf.

Treasurer's report: We have a current balance of \$908.69

Calendar sales report: 25% of calendars have been sold. *Get yours now!!*

Meeting ended.

Dinner happened.

Others joined for the educational presentation: Molly Ola Pinney of the *Global Autism Project* in Ghana .

CARE Takes Action In Our Community

For almost sixty years CARE has worked around the world in the fight against global poverty. Today, CARE is working in more than 70 countries worldwide providing access to basic needs such as healthcare, education and economic opportunities and delivering relief during times of emergencies. Interwoven in all of our programs is the notion of strengthening capacities for self-help, so that change will be lasting long after we leave.

One of the centerpieces of our mission has always been to influence policy decisions at all levels of government and communities that impact the poor. By holding governments accountable for their actions and ensuring that policies are facilitating progress against poverty, we intend to have a greater impact on poverty, discrimination, and social injustice. To enhance our capability, CARE has created the CARE Action Network -- a network of CARE supporters who will work with us to educate and engage policymakers in the fight against global poverty.

Through the CARE Action Network (CAN), volunteers from across the country are working to educate policymakers and advocate for more global poverty aid and changes in policies that will remove barriers and create opportunities for impoverished communities. Participants can choose among a range of activities including writing letters to members of Congress, meeting with policymakers, attending a policy forum or conference or signing letters to the editor of local newspapers.

CAN focuses on issues that are critical in the fight to overcome poverty such as HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, and access to education and clean water and sanitation.

During the upcoming Congressional recess in December or January, CAN would like to meet

with Senator Gordon Smith. As Return Peace Corps Volunteers, you understand the intricacies of sustainable development and your participation in this meeting would be valuable. If you would be interested in meeting with your Senator and discussing these critical issues, please contact Christina Santos, Western Region Field Coordinator for CAN at (206) 464-0787 or csantos@care.org. To learn more about CARE visit www.care.org or to join the CARE Action Network go to <http://can.care.org/>.

45th PC Anniversary Event

NPCA has selected Portland to be one of ten "Open house" celebrations in the US for the 45th anniversary of Peace Corps. The event is to inform

RPCVs on what is happening in Peace Corps now and how they can participate. It would also draw upon people who are considering joining, parents of Volunteers, etc.

It will be a three hour event with perhaps the first hour being a workshop(s), with a focus such as the Third Goal. But also perhaps, promoting the Peace Corps Museum, and/or speaker opportunities (including the Global Affairs work by Karen Ettinger). The second two hours could be free floating with staffed table displays: a recruiting table, NCPA table, CRPCA table with artifacts, e.g.

NPCA will manage, set up and pay for the event including catering. They would like our help in checking people in, deciding date, place and catering. Sunday, March 5th at PSU has been suggested, but other possibilities regarding date, place, theme and catering is being solicited. Contact Rich with your input.

New Officer Positions Available

CRPCA is in the process of revising its bylaws to include the following new officer positions. We're already recruiting for them. Please contact Rich Ireland (rireland88@yahoo.com, 503-246-0479) if one piques your interest. Either would be a great way to give back if you've been thinking of getting more involved.

- The Service Coordinator will coordinate the spring and fall service days in addition to outreach/publicity efforts in the community (such as the Global Portland Festival, Salem World Beat Festival, Starlight Parade, etc).

- The Special Events Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the annual dinner and other special events which they may choose to add to our calendar.

NPCA Membership Relations Update

For the last month I've been participating on the National Peace Corps Association's Membership Relations subgroup, which is charged with advising NPCA's board on ways to increase NPCA membership and identify opportunities to strengthen both affiliates (like CRPCA) and NPCA. Everything is on the table, but none of these proposed changes are sure to happen.

- NPCA dues may increase or decrease. The family and multi-year discounts are likely to continue, and eligibility for the free year for recent RPCVs may be expanded. [I'm for expanding this incentive to all new members, even if their COS date was years ago.]
- There's going to be a strong push for members of NPCA affiliates to join/renew through NPCA's website to decrease administrative costs. There's likely to be a financial incentive for affiliates to participate in this program, such as waiving reaffiliation fees (CRPCA currently pays NPCA \$1 per member). This would apply to all CRPCA members and could potentially put our membership coordinator out of business. They've promised an improved data collection and reporting system if this goes into place. [I'm not opposed to the idea, but I'm skeptical that they'd follow through on that last point.]
- Affiliate membership may become optional. Currently all NPCA members get one free affiliate membership. Under this proposal, people could join NPCA only for a \$15 discount. This is good for NPCA but does nothing to support affiliates. [I'm against this proposal, but it appears to have legs.]
- They may move all members toward the same renewal period (such as Jan 1 – Dec 31). [I think they'd need a really good transition plan and a way to integrate new members at any point during the year.]

This group's nine members are equally split between current NPCA board members, past NPCA board members, and affiliate group officers like me. All have roots in affiliate groups around the country, and the Northwest is well-represented. Any proposed changes

will ultimately be shopped around to all affiliate group leaders before becoming policy.

I invite CRPCA members' questions or concerns at crpca@crpca.org or 503-235-9637.

Bill Stein (Niger 1990-93), CRPCA webmaster

About us

The *Columbia River Peace Corps Association* (CRPCA) Newsletter is published monthly by the CRPCA for the benefit of its members. The CRPCA serves Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) and others in Oregon and southwest Washington who share an interest in global development issues. To join CRPCA (and/or the National Peace Corps Association) and have the newsletter *delivered*, please see the back page or visit: www.crpca.org. Newsletter submissions are due by the 25th of each month. Send by mail to P.O. Box 802, Portland, OR 97207, or e-mail to: crpca_nl@yahoo.com

OFFICERS

President: Richard Ireland (Haiti '98-'00)
503-246-0479, rireland88@yahoo.com

Secretary: Cate Wilcox (Micronesia '87-'89)
503-777-3578, cwilcox@teleport.com

Membership: Karen Cellarius (Hungary '91-'93)
503-289-3964, karen@cellarius.org

Webmaster: Bill Stein (Niger '90-'93)
503-235-9637, garba@aracnet.com

Restaurant Coordinator: Jenny Tsai (Fiji '90-'92) 503-806-6275, jenn_tsai@hotmail.com.

Advocacy Coordinator: Martin Kaplan (Somalia '62-'64) 503-699-9833,
martinlkaplan@comcast.net

Program Director: Laura Montez (Kiribati '97-'99) neirooma@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Anne Kimberly (Sierra Leone '86-'88)
503-234-4094, anne.kimberly@reed.edu

Newsletter Editor: Dane Pikkola (Swaziland '92-'94) 971-544-1727, crpca_nl@yahoo.com

Speakers Bureau: Victoria Crumpacker (Turkmenistan '00-'01) wcrummy@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS CHANGE RENEWAL FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Newsletter form: Electronic (by e-mail) _____ Paper (by USPS mail) _____ Both _____

Peace Corps Country and Years of Service: _____

Peace Corps Job/Sector: _____

Current Occupation: _____

Membership Type (Check one): New _____ Renewal _____

Are you available at times to speak with groups about your Peace Corps experience? _____

Please check one of the following membership options:

Preferred / Encouraged

Membership in the National Peace Corps Association with CRPCA as your free affiliate.

_____ \$50 CRPCA and NPCA (Individual)

_____ \$65 CRPCA and NPCA (Family)

_____ FREE CRPCA and NPCA (if you closed your Peace Corps service in the last year)

Low Income / Living Lightly

Membership in CRPCA only.

_____ \$15 CRPCA only (Individual)

_____ \$22.50 CRPCA only (Family)

Please make checks payable to: Columbia River Peace Corps Association, and mail to:
CRPCA, PO Box 802, Portland, OR 97207

Columbia River Peace Corps Association
PO Box 802
Portland, OR 97207
www.crPCA.org